

## **"A Torturous Hell"**

### Various Scriptures

"Say to them, 'as surely as I live,' declares the Sovereign Lord, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!' Ezekiel 33:11

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Matthew 26:41

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

Beliefs about hell:

1. Hell is not part of the original plan
2. It is not easy to go to hell
3. Hell is a matter of choice
4. There is no second chance
5. Hell is not annihilation or universalism

Other thoughts concerning hell:

Principle: The essence of hell is to be separated from God.

Principle: God would never send anybody to hell. We send ourselves.

"The doors of Hell are locked from the inside." C.S. Lewis

Four principles from Matthew 13:47-51:

1. Every fish in the lake will be gathered up.
2. There will be a separation process
3. The follower of Christ will be assigned a place for eternity in heaven.
4. The non-Christian will be assigned a place for eternity in hell.

Four different types of suffering in hell:

1. Hell involves emotional anguish
2. Hell involves physical anguish
3. Hell involves relational anguish
4. Hell involves spiritual anguish

How do we end up in hell? We end up in hell if we reject Jesus.

Why is hell such a horrible punishment?

1. The non-Christian tramples God underneath his feet.
2. The non-Christian regards the blood of Christ as unholy.
3. The non-Christian insults the Spirit of grace

Who will not be in heaven?

1. Cowardly
2. Sexually immoral
3. Those that practice witchcraft
4. Idolaters
5. Liars

Three implications of the teaching for everyone:

1. For non-Christians – start a relationship with Jesus.
2. For followers of Christ – rejoice that you have a relationship with Jesus and eternal life
3. For our church – reach out and share Jesus with others.

Life group questions:

What was your concept of hell before you heard the teaching this morning? How has the teaching either re-enforced or challenged those beliefs?

Mark Twain once quipped, “Heaven is for the climate; hell for the companionship.” In light of the teaching today, how would you respond to someone who offered that observation?

Has the doctrine of hell been a stumbling block to you as a follower of Christ? In what specific ways has the teaching dealt with the concerns that held you back in your spiritual journey?

Role play with someone in your life group as to how you would share with them in a loving way concerning the reality of hell and accepting Christ.

Pray for those whom you know that don't know Christ.